

**34:15-49.1. Referees designated judges of compensation.** Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 34:15-49 to the contrary, referees of formal hearings in the Division of Workers' Compensation who have been so employed for a period of 10 years or more and who have been attorneys at law of this State for a period of 10 years or more, are hereby designated judges of compensation and shall commence service as judges of compensation upon the effective date of this act at the first step in salary range 39 of the appropriate compensation plan adopted by the Civil Service Commission in accordance with chapter 8 of Title 11 of the Revised Statutes.<sup>6</sup>

**34:15-49.2 Inapplicability of mandatory retirement for worker's compensation judges, certain.** The mandatory retirement provisions implemented pursuant to this act, P.L.1999, c.380 (C.52:14-15.115 et al.), shall be inapplicable for three years after the effective date of this act to any judge of the Division of Workers' Compensation who is in service on the effective date of this act.

**34:15-49.3 Certain worker's compensation judges permitted to work beyond age 70.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this act, P.L.1999, c.380 (C.52:14-15.115 et al.), to the contrary, any judge of the Division of Workers' Compensation who is 60 years of age or older on the effective date of this act shall be permitted to continue service as a judge until attaining 10 years of service under the "Public Employees' Retirement System Act," P.L.1954, c.84 (C.43:15A-1 et seq.).

**34:15-50. Approval and filing of agreement.** Whenever an employer or his insurance carrier and an injured employee, or the dependents of a deceased employee, shall, by agreement, duly signed, settle upon and determine the compensation due to the injured employee, or to the dependents of a deceased employee, as provided by law, the employer or the insurance carrier shall forthwith file with the bureau a true copy of the agreement. The agreement shall not bind the employer or injured employee, or the dependents of a deceased employee, unless approved by the bureau. If an agreement for lawful and adequate compensation, approved by the bureau, is not filed within twenty-one days after the date of the happening of the injury, the bureau shall, so far as practicable, endeavor to bring about a settlement of the pending claim. If no petition is filed by the injured employee, or the dependents of a deceased employee, the bureau may institute an inquiry on its own motion, to determine the reasons for the failure to agree as to compensation, and may, either before or after the institution of the inquiry, with the consent of the injured employee, or the dependents of a deceased employee, file a petition for compensation. When such petition is filed by said bureau, on its own initiative, the subsequent proceedings shall be the same as is hereinafter set forth in cases where the claimant files a petition.

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<sup>6</sup>Repealed; see, now, §§ 11A:3-7, 11A:6-24.